

MEMORANDUM

Milpitas Police Department



Armando Corpuz
Chief of Police

DATE: April 9, 2018
TO: City Manager, Julie Edmonds-Mares
FROM: Chief of Police, Armando Corpuz
SUBJECT: **Milpitas Police Department - Homeless Outreach Team**

Background

The City of Milpitas experienced a steady increase in the homeless population over the past few years. The increase is consistent with regional and statewide trends. The State of California, through a Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) Grant, allocated funding to municipalities to help combat various issues affecting communities, including homeless outreach. The City of Milpitas received BSCC funds from the state pursuant to Senate Bill 826, in the amount of \$108,568.32. \$80,568.32 of which was allocated for the implementation of a homeless outreach program. The remaining \$28,000 was allocated for Crisis Intervention Team Training and Drug Endangered Children Training.

Homeless Outreach Program (\$ 80,568.32)

BSCC funding is used to deploy personnel (contact teams) on an overtime basis, and to purchase goods and services such as essential survival supplies (food/water), clothing, blankets, personal hygiene supplies, travel vouchers, VTA bus passes, hotel vouchers, and other needs identified by the team.

Contact teams are tasked with contacting our homeless population to identify their individual needs. The contact team works with homeless advocacy groups, mental health services, and other county services to address the needs of the homeless. It is voluntary for the individual to receive help and follow through with the services.

Staffing

The Homeless Outreach Team is managed by a Lieutenant and is supervised by a Sergeant. There are five (5) police officers assigned to the team. Additional officers may volunteer to participate and assist during a deployment.

The Sergeant and the assigned officers are responsible for determining the deployment dates and times. The deployments are random and times vary to maximize the number of contacts the team makes. Deployments always include a minimum of two sworn personnel, one of which is a member of the Homeless Outreach Team to ensure consistency in standards and reporting.

Resources

The Homeless Outreach Team maintains a list of county resources available to the homeless and has contacted homeless advocates to understand their role in helping the homeless. Most resources are provided to the homeless free or charge and on a first come-first serve basis. The majority of resources are located in the City of San Jose and include: shelters, domestic violence advocacy, transitional housing, family services, financial assistance (rent), mental health, veteran's assistance, legal aid, food pantry, juvenile specific services, drug treatment, employment and vocational services, and transportation assistance.

Training

Participating officers receive training on the objectives of the outreach program, the available advocacy and resources for the homeless, current laws and requirements for homeless eviction, Department of Public Works clean-up procedures, and sex offender registration requirements for transients.

Deployment

The objective of the deployments is to educate our homeless population about the resources available to them and encourage their use.

The contact teams are expected to identify the location(s) where homeless people are living and congregating within the City of Milpitas, proactively make contact with homeless through consensual encounters and/or detentions when a law violation is observed, immediately address any emergency needs (ie: psychiatric/medical emergencies), engage the individuals and attempt to build rapport, identify the needs and goals of the individual, and educate them about available resources. Each homeless person contacted is given the option to enroll in our outreach program by voluntarily providing their contact information. The information is stored to facilitate future contacts and to track the services provided to the individual.

Performance Measures and Program Tracking

A shift activity log is completed after each deployment. The log records the date and time of the deployment, the personnel that participated, the total number of homeless contacted, the number of homeless contacted that are on probation or parole, the number of homeless persons in need of psychiatric services, referral information, arrest information, and miscellaneous deployment notes.

This information is used to monitor the program and identify if adjust the program are necessary.

Enforcement

Contact officers occasionally encounter wanted persons, persons in violation of their probation or parole terms, transient sex offenders in violation of their registration requirements, and other on-view criminal violations. In these instances, the officers take the appropriate enforcement action (ie; arrest or citation). If emergency psychiatric services are needed, the individual will be placed on a 72-hour psychiatric hold or be provided a courtesy transport to Valley Medical Center-Emergency Psychiatric Services.

Goods/Services

Contact officers have distributed non-perishable foods, personal hygiene kits, clothing, blankets, and VTA bus passes to the homeless. The VTA bus passes are given to ensure our homeless have transportation to receive county services located in other parts of the county. Hotel vouchers, travel vouchers, and gas vouchers may be provided under limited circumstances and with the prior approval of the program manager. However, there has not been a need or request for to date.

Statistical Data

- Six (6) deployments of the Homeless Outreach Team since December 1, 2017
- Sixty-four (64) homeless persons contacted
- Three (3) arrests
- Thirteen (13) homeless on probation/parole contacted
- One (1) homeless in need of emergency psychiatric service contacted
- Two (2) homeless registered sex offenders contacted

- Four (4) bus tokens distributed
- Nine (9) hygiene kits distributed
- Three (3) food kits distributed
- Twelve (12) blankets distributed

- Two (2) homeless persons obtained shelter
- Eleven (11) homeless persons contacted refused any and all services

- \$400.00 spent on supplies (food kits, bus tokens, hygiene kits)
- \$12,435.41 spent on payroll expenses (79.5 personnel hours including OT and benefits)